

*The*  
**Eagle's Eye**  
*Florida Air National Guard* *Spring 2006*  
*Volume 6, Issue 1*

# MAIN EVENT



***Inspector General validates  
FLANG's mission readiness***



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**Front Cover Design:** The FLANG had several opportunities of late to show Air Force inspectors that Team Florida is better than just 'satisfactory' when it comes to mission accomplishment.

**Back Cover:** Historical cargo deployment activities from a 125th ORI from the 1990's.



# Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus  
Commander, Florida Air National Guard

In the Fall 2005 edition of the Eagle's Eye the theme was "Maintaining Readiness During the Storm." The pressures on the organizations as we published that issue were tremendous, but the strength and determination of each unit was steadfast as we stayed on course with planning and preparation for the most visible and crucial inspection in the United States Air Force; the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). We faced inspections at the 114th Range Flight, the Homestead Alert Detachment, and the 202nd Red Horse Squadron. Additionally, all other units, to include the 290JCSS, the Weather Flight, the Weather Readiness Training Center, the Southeast Air Defense Sector, and the 325FW Associate Unit operated at extremely high operational levels.

There were times when many of us worried we were requiring way to much of our personnel and counting on equipment that quite frankly was just old and seemingly taking its last breath. However, the worry was transformed to positive energy every time we observed one of our proud members with a high spirit and willingness to do what it took to meet the demands, and prove once again why the Florida Air National Guard raises the bar and sets a standard for all to emulate. President Ronald Reagan understood readiness and why we remain ready when he said,

*"We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."*

When all the reports came in, the report card we gave the Ad-

jutant General made us grin from ear to ear.

The Florida Air National Guard proved once again with our inspection results that we are prepared to defend this freedom. Freedom we never take for granted.

Inspectors from Air Combat Command, Air Education and Training Command and Air Force Space Command came to our state with stringent, demanding criteria that numerous organizations around the country were scoring at less than impressive levels. In fact, our briefings over the last year were showing trends throughout the Air Force, ANG, and AFRES going toward Unsatisfactory and Marginal ratings requiring a revisit by the inspection teams within six months, with few even receiving Satisfactory performance ratings.

The trend changed as the IG teams rolled into Florida.

The first visit to the 114th finished as the crowd erupted into cheers as the inspector announced "OUTSTANDING." This first-ever ANG stand-alone space unit inspection made a statement - the FLANG space efforts were more than on track for success.

The IG team then went to Homestead for a no-notice Alert Force Evaluation (AFE) and our alert site finished with an overall "EXCELLENT" with maintenance, weapons team, condition of aircraft, technical orders, and launch and recovery receiving OUTSTANDING marks.

After nine hurricanes, including a six-month job in Mississippi to support Katrina operations, the 202RHS deployed equipment and personnel to join the 203RHS in Virginia Beach for a Phase I and II ORI. The crowd exploded into



applause with an EXCELLENT on Phase I and SATISFACTORY on Phase II, noting the highest marks given to a Red Horse unit in the past two years of the ACC Horse inspection cycle. And finally, on March 15 in front of an energized crowd to include our TAG - Maj. Gen. Burnett, Brig. Gen. Titshaw, and myself, the ACC IG team announced the results of the 125th Fighter Wing to an out of their mind electrified crowd.

*"Ladies and gentlemen, the Phase I score of this 125th ORI is...OUTSTANDING!"*

Florida Air National Guard units were all commended for their positive attitudes, morale, and profound attention to detail. At the Wing, 47 individuals were recognized as superior performers with 19 teams named Superior Teams. Colonel Scott Stacy, 125th commander, noted every time he wanted to say thank you to an individual, the member said, "sir, it wasn't me, it was the incredible team I work with."

What an amazing honor and blessing it is to serve as the FLANG commander with such a giving, dynamic team of people who know why we stay prepared and show unquestioned loyalty to our flag and our freedom.

Team Florida...awesome job and thanks to your wonderful families for supporting the sacrifices you make every day to keep us the best Air National Guard state in the nation!

# Chief's Words

By Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Shonka  
HQ FLANG Command Chief

*Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do.* Our core values and what our Florida Air National Guard airmen have been demonstrating a lot lately. As I've observed our various units during these inspections – our core values kept coming back to me.

**Integrity first** – Webster's defines integrity as a firm adherence to a code or standard of values. Its middle English root is to "integrate" (to bring together as a whole) and "integral" (complete, whole). Integrity that strengthens an inner value system is the real human bottom line. You do what's right, not what's fashionable or easy. We expect integrity from others but we must demand it from ourselves. How many times did our airmen refer to the Airman's Manual and point out changes or refer to their Technical Orders to assure that we met code? Colonel Stacy gave an outstanding example of Integrity at the 125FW ORI outbrief. He told of how he went to thank one of his Senior staff members for

"work well done." Little did he know that wanting to express that thank you would take him down a chain of command to the flight line to a Senior Airman "just" doing his job."

**Service before self** – Extra weekends and long days spent out at the unit instead of being home with your families. Putting those chores off just one more month to assure your unit could prove to the inspectors that you really know your job and can maybe even do it better than they've seen it done before! Volunteer airmen who had already been away from their families helping save lives and returning communities to normal operations in Mississippi not too many months before or deployed – some as much as a year supporting different contingencies.

**Excellence in all we do** – The focus as we prepared for the inspections wasn't on how we could excel but on why we couldn't. Sir Winston Churchill was quoted as saying, "Never, never, never, never give up." This was



proven over and over as your units kept performing those endless exercises to prepare for the inspection. The results of all our inspections are proving this – how proud we should all be of ourselves, our units, and the Florida Air National Guard.

I leave you with a saying I picked up somewhere, "We must have the courage to bet on our dreams, to take the calculated risk and leave behind forever the internal forces that hold us down." Congratulations to each of you for having this courage!



## Overseas Baggage Handler?

Left: Col. Ron Brooks, 376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group and 125th Mission Support Group commander, off-loads baggage onto the boardwalk at Pete's Place Jan. 5 for the new AEF rotation. Colonel Brooks was deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan and at the time of this picture was nearing the end of a 120-day AEF rotation.



Bottom Center: Colonel Brooks helps tear down tents in tent city at Manas Air Base Kyrgyzstan. Brooks, along with others, tore down tents to make way for new construction. As of November 2005, all of the new dorms were complete.



# From the Cockpit...

By Col. Robert "Squirt" Branyon  
125FW Vice commander



It's 0600, Saturday morning of the ORI, and I am walking past the south parking lot, in mostly darkness, but for the dim artificial lights illuminating my surroundings.

As I pass the dining hall, I look to my left and see other Airmen appearing out of the misty darkness, headed toward the Maintenance hangar.

It reminds me of a war movie, as more "soldiers" appear one by one into my vision.

I note how we are walking "line abreast," just like the way we fly tactical formation in our F-15s. In the Eagle, we fly that way to ensure maximum mutual support of each other.

I ponder how those other Airmen will be providing mutual support to each other during another day of ORI challenges...

Now the ORI is over, and we are currently flying Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM) missions. The backbone of an ACM mission is flying a line abreast formation, about two miles apart, using good radar and visual lookout to provide maximum mutual support to your wingman. You pick up the "bandit" quickly enough and you live; otherwise you die.

The ACM missions simulate that one of the bad guys made it past our long-range volley of missiles and has arrived into a visual fight with us. The bandit knows who we are and starts shooting at us immediately, but we have to "ID" (identify) the bandit as a "MiG" before we can shoot him. In order to ID the bandit, one of our

fighters has to pass close aboard, get the ID, and then declare the bandit as a "hostile MiG."

Meanwhile, the other fighter is attempting to survive the bandit's preemptive missile attacks, using self-defense chaff and flare. We can make the scenario even more challenging when we use two bandits against our two-ship of Eagles. We typically make the second bandit remain about 10 miles away, until his evil twin "merges" with the two Eagles and starts fighting. Then the 2nd bandit is cleared to maneuver into the fight to try to kill the two Eagles.

The bottom line here is that the two Eagles have to achieve a quick kill on the first bandit, quickly get their mutual support back together, then detect the 2nd incoming bandit, either visually or by radar, before the 2nd bandit is able to kill one of the Eagles.

Mutual support is definitely critical flying Eagles, and I firmly believe that it was mutual support that contributed immensely to the "Outstanding" rating on the ORI. You don't achieve such great accolades from an IG team through mere outstanding individual effort.

There's no doubt that mutual support was prevalent at every activity and shop during our inspection.


We back each other up and check each other's "six." It's part of our culture and it's why we excel. As for our next challenge...fight's on!




# Saying Goodbye

125th Security Forces  
members leave families  
and friends to  
deploy  
overseas


*Photos by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

A photograph of Staff Sgt. Tim Bedingfield, a man with short reddish hair in a tan U.S. Air Force flight suit, sitting at a table with his young son Spencer. Spencer is wearing a blue and white baseball jersey and is focused on a small object in his hands. On the table is a plate of food, a green can, and a white napkin. The background shows rows of metal folding chairs.

Top Left: Staff Sgt. Tim Bedingfield, 125th Security Forces Squadron member, and his son Spencer, spend some time together at a family readiness luncheon Jan. 24, 2006. Bedingfield was one of more than a dozen SFS members preparing to deploy to Iraq.

A photograph of Tech. Sgt. Arthur Busch, his wife Melissa, and their son Jackson. Arthur is wearing a red and white striped shirt, Melissa is in a yellow shirt, and Jackson is in a dark blue sweatshirt. They are standing in front of a store with signs for 'DONuts' and 'CANNON'. Another person in a camouflage uniform is partially visible on the right.

Bottom Left: Tech. Sgt. Arthur Busch, his wife Melissa and son Jackson spend some last moments together before Busch departs for Southwest Asia during the farewell ceremony conducted at Jacksonville International Airport Jan. 25, 2006.

A partial photograph showing the lower half of a person wearing a black shirt, blue jeans, and a black belt with a silver buckle.

Master Sgt. Mike Seger, 125th Security Forces Squadron member, hugs his daughter Sadie as he prepares to leave on his deployment to Southwest Asia Jan. 25, 2006.



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Above: Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, Florida Air National Guard commander, addresses departing 125th Security Forces Squadron personnel and their friends and families at Jacksonville International Airport Jan. 25, 2006.



Inset Photo: Staff Sgt. Charles Wilkie and his wife Dawn listen as Brig. Gen. Balskus addresses 125th Security Forces Squadron personnel and their families during a departure ceremony at Jacksonville International Airport Jan. 25, 2006.



Photo courtesy 125th Security Forces Squadron

Members of 125th Security Forces pose for a photo in Kuwait. They stopped in Kuwait en route to Iraq where they will serve for six months.

# RED HORSE: attitude is everything!

By SSgt Bill Nichols  
202RHS UPAR

CAMP PENDLETON, Va. - The 202nd/203rd RED HORSE Squadron passed their Operational Readiness Inspection, with an overall "Satisfactory" rating.

The 202nd/203rd Florida/Virginia Air National Guard inspection conducted at the 203rd compound here, was geared toward testing all aspects of the Squadron's capabilities, including Command and Control, repairing damaged runways, defending base camp, administrative functions, chemical warfare, purifying water, and other areas.

Colonel Jack Paschal, 202RHS Commander, said he was pleased with the evaluation process, and how RED HORSE performed, "The inspectors train, motivate and inspect. They're really here to help. We were one of the best units that the I.G. (Inspector General) had seen as far as attitude and the constant ability to want to improve.

Evidently they had some units who did not take the initiative to want to improve, and hence they got failing grades.

We didn't bellyache."

Every Airman was required to wear body armor, combat helmet, chemical suit, load bearing equipment, and carry an M-16 rifle. 203rd Commander, Lt. Col. Paul Julian said physical

conditioning and long periods in chemical suits presented unique challenges, "Physical training is 'A' number one.

If you're going to stay in that suit, you have to be physically fit, and not have any overweight issues, or you're not going to make it.

Back in the 1987 ORI, we were in it for about six hours so I think you need to be prepared to stay in it for six to eight hours."

The first two days of the ORI consisted of indoor briefings on Self Aid and Buddy Care, disease preventative measures, chemical attack procedures, antiterrorism force protection, Law of Armed Conflict and Rules of Engagement.

While troops were briefed, the I.G. team from Langley AFB checked mobility folders and other documents.

The Phase One administrative review received an "Excellent" rating. Major Pete Garner, 203rd Deputy Commander said, "We had our stuff together for Phase One, the paperwork, the increments, the cargo—that really went well. Probably the best thing in Phase Two was the attitude—the attitude of coming together as a team.

Everyone knew it had to get done.

When we had to work late, we had the people out there doing it, just busting their tail—attitude is really what carried us through." The Phase Two field portion meant three and a



*Photos courtesy of Major Pete Garner*

A crane is used during the RED HORSE ORI to erect a prefabricated structure at Camp Pendleton, Va.



half days of extraordinarily long days for most Airmen—0640 hours to 2300 hours in many cases, and wearing the chemical suit 12-14 hours each day.

Work crews labored into the night repairing damaged runways, and filling/placing sandbags to augment base defenses.

Staff Sgt. Chet Norman monitored camp activity with binoculars from atop a guard tower throughout Phase Two.

Other security innovations included machine gun positions, roving patrols on foot and in trucks and an entry control point.

Simulated medical emergencies mixed with “real world” emergencies, all of which were handled by 1Lt Sarah Handegard, the 203rd Physician’s Assistant.

“We had some heat injuries, we had a fall off the guard tower, minor cuts, scrapes and blisters, and a couple of cut fingers from knives” she said.

“For the most part, we did a lot of work with no injuries, and that’s a big thing. The other thing is just being tired,” continued Handegard.

“We had a lot of people that were eating either one or two times a day, skipping meals, not drinking enough water or drinking things other than water.”

The task of preparing meals and processing simulated remains of the deceased fell to the Services section, supervised by Tech Sgt. Brian Howard, who said he appreciated the realism associated with the ORI, “It’ll help us get ready for when we go overseas again.

I’m glad the I.G. inspectors were on top of us like they were. It felt like a real situation the whole time we were doing it.”

Before the findings of the I.G. report were finalized on Saturday, Feb. 18, the Florida Air National Guard Commander, Brig. Gen. Joseph Balskus, spoke with RED HORSE Airmen.



202nd and 203rd Airmen complete a concrete “pour” as part of the tasking for RED HORSE during the ORI conducted at Camp Pendleton, Va. in February 2006.

“I’m extremely proud of your performance. The spirit of this group was unquestionably the best we’ve ever seen. When you’re coming out of dirty MOPP gear (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) that they had you stay in a long time, and you’re whipping those masks off and you’ve got a smile on your face—that’s just a tremendous performance.

These are not easy times,” said Balskus,

“War is not an easy time, and as we continue to go over to the desert to batter down those thugs that get a kick out of blowing our people up, we’re going to get every last one of them.

In the meantime, we’re going to rely on this organization to go out there and make quality of life better, to build things, to go into harm’s way to make things happen for the betterment of this nation.

This is a great day, because you again have come off extremely busy times and once again put on that red hat, to show this team that you’ve got more spirit and dedication in your finger than most people see in a lifetime.

God bless you.”

# New system for 114th means safer space launches at Cape Canaveral

By Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa  
Florida National Guard Public Affairs



Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

**J**ust a stone's throw from the ground where America's first space flights were launched in the 1950s, the Florida Air National Guard is helping ensure the safety of future space endeavors.

The 114th is entrusted with this great responsibility in part due to their Outstanding performance on their ORI in 2005. That performance gave the ANG bragging rights to expand space operations.

In late March members of the 114th Range Flight led testing for upgrades to their spaceflight tracking system that will not only streamline the way they receive flight data during a rocket launch, but allow them the ability to destroy a rocket if it steers off course and becomes a threat. According to unit members this is an important upgrade for the unit, whose mission is to sustain spacelift range operations for the Air Force by providing Air Force Space Command with a mobile range

safety and telemetry tracking capability, known as the Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST) System.

One of the upgrades involved hardware which increased the transmitting capability of the Command Destruct System (CDS). The CDS provides the capability to destroy an erratic vehicle before it can endanger public safety or property. The

CDS testing utilized an aircraft that transmitted telemetry and GPS/INS data which was received and processed by the BMRST system to track the aircraft's position.

Then, simulated command destruct functions were transmitted to the aircraft by the BMRST system to verify that receivers aboard the aircraft could receive and process the signals. This test successfully demonstrated the capability

of the BMRST system to track a vehicle and send destruct functions if necessary.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

**Major Julia Black, 114th Range Flight, stands outside of the Command Destruct System test site at Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., March 23, 2006.**

*Continued next page...*



"This is a huge milestone for the program," Maj. Julia Black of the 114th said during testing for the upgrades at Cape Canaveral March 23. "Our primary mission is range safety – to protect the public." Black and members from the 114th Combat Communications Squadron and 45th Space Wing, 1st Range Operations Squadron monitored the testing from a state-of-the-art mobile operations center – just a couple hundred feet from the Atlantic Ocean and within view of several historic launch pads.

Another upgrade consisted of software that enables BMRST system to receive data from other range tracking sites. "This is a new path of how the data is getting to us and how we are processing it" Black said explaining that the Airmen operating in the mobile operations center can continue to track a rocket even if its current "auto tracking" systems are inoperable.

In testing this new capability, a simulation was conducted March 23 which used tracking data from the January launch of an Atlas V rocket carrying the New Horizons spacecraft for its upcoming Pluto mission.



*Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Micheal Germain*

**Senior Amn. Samuel Almengor places the final hardware to secure the USC-60A's pedals.**

Using tracking data from the actual Jan. 19 launch, Black and her team attempted to track the simulated rocket as it traveled upward through the atmosphere.

According to NASA the actual New Horizons launch was successful, and the spacecraft is scheduled to study the planet Pluto in 2015.

## Spring 06 brings new equipment, missions to 114th

*By Staff Sgt. Paula M. Lessard  
114CCS UPAR*

Members of the 114th Combat Communications Squadron (CCS) are ready for spring with the acceptance of new equipment, new missions, and important system testing.

In February, the 114th received its third ballistic missile range safety technology (BMRST) terminal system.

The BMRST is a range safety asset, and the primary use is augmenting current infrastructure during space and missile launches as part of the overall range safety solution or as a telemetry-gathering source.

The system has the capability to function as a stand-alone primary command destruct source. The unit also received one USC-60A lightweight fly-band satellite terminal, one of

the latest satellite systems available to the military community (see story opposite page).

With new equipment in place, the 114th is ready for the next phase. The Program Change Request (PCR) to convert the 114CCS to a fully operational space squadron was approved by Air Staff. The reorganization will occur this spring, creating the 114th Range Operations Squadron (ROPS) by combining the 114RANF and the 114CCS.

The new missions will make the unit vital for capabilities in space and satellite missions.

The SATCOM Interference Reporting System (SIRS) mission is progressing, with IOC projected for 4th quarter of this fiscal year.

The system is part of the CSAF's budget and part of Defensive Counter Space.

A similar system is already deployed overseas, providing support to Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.

This mission will utilize operators in the satellite and space operations fields from the unit. SIRS is a critical detection system, used primarily in the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

It is responsible for tracking any jamming, intentional or not, within the communications lines of our troops.

The mission will expand in the future with AEF rotation opportunities and with the 114th becoming the school house for AFSPC.

## Double Honors!

Airman 1st Class Brandon J. Trumble, 19, and Amn. 1st Class Justin R. Trumble, 19, who both graduated from Basic Military Training (BMT) at Lackland AFB, Tx. Mar. 17, stand in front of the Alamo with their father Staff Sgt. Jeffrey J. Trumble.

The twins, who are the 3rd set of twins to join the FLANG, graduated with honors from the new seven-week intensive military training course. They were part of a group of 61 honor graduates selected out of 644 graduating Airmen.

After graduation, the two full-time University of North Florida students left for Keesler AFB, where they will spend the next six months at communications maintenance technical school. When they return to home-station, they will spend two months performing on-the-job training with the 125th Communications Flight.

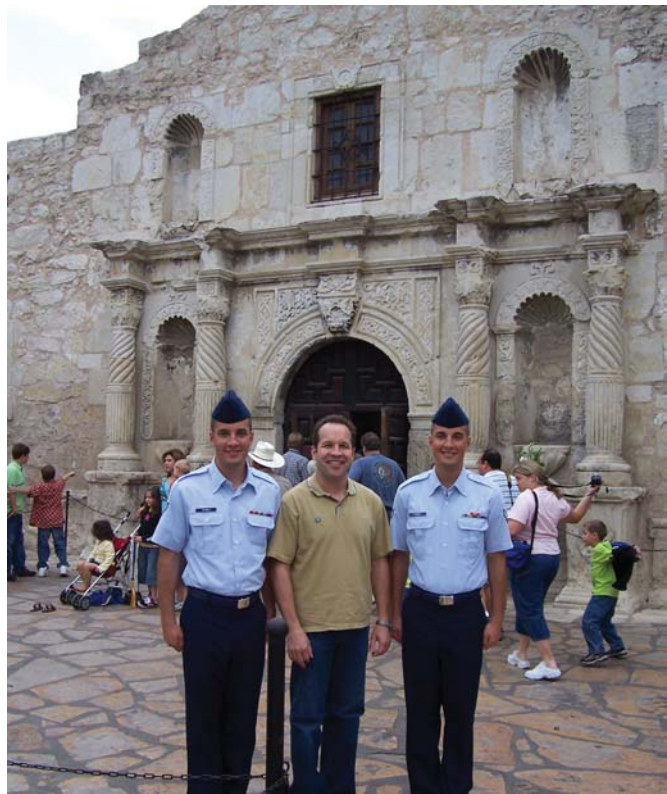


Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Jeff Trumble

## AFNORTH Air Operation Center update

By Colonel Debra A. Skelton  
SEADS Director of Support

As the SEADS gets closer to transforming to the AFNORTH Air Operations Center (AOC) mission, numerous physical changes are obvious besides ordering new patches and ball caps.

The AOC MILCON project to the far eastern corner of the compound is a hive of activity.

Though completion date has slid to Aug. 30, 2006 due to a delayed start, phenomenal progress has been made.

The steel skeleton frame pictured in the winter 2005 article is now covered with metal studs and Denz glass insulation.

The stucco work has commenced to complete the outer shell of the AOC.

More than 500 cubic yards of concrete has been poured with at least 100 more yards to go for sidewalks and miscellaneous slabs.

Inside the frame of the AOC, the mezzanine that will hold the JFACC has been welded with stars giving a bird's eye view over the entire operations floor. The state

of the art data wall has been roughed in awaiting the numerous screens that will display critical homeland defense information.

The mechanical facility now has walls, a roof, boilers and generators.

Each of the 1,200 KW generators can power the entire facility for five days via the 6,000 gallon diesel above ground fuel tank to be installed later this spring. In the next few months, two 100-ton cooling units will be placed and piped-in.

The AOC will require 200 tons of cooling for which over 2,000 linear feet of chilled water supply/return piping and about half of the two miles of air conditioning duct work has been installed.

The steady progress of the AOC MILCON is representational of our progress as we transform our mission to the AFNORTH AOC.

The hard work and dedication that has gone into the facility as well as all the personnel transfers to this vital mission are a true measure of the Airmen assigned to this FLANG unit.



# Innovation, ingenuity reduces impact of the storm

By Master Sgt. Troy H. Herr  
290JCSS UPAR

The beast stirs in the Caribbean! The maelstrom grumbles in the Gulf! You know what is coming, but you hope they don't call. Then the phone rings and that sinking feeling hits you.

Grab your bags! It's time to earn your money! Hurricane season is here.

The next 24 hours will be sweat drenching and nerve racking. The backbreaking loading of trucks and unloading trucks and the waiting to see where the storm will finally make landfall is excruciating.

Hub site members drive out to Camp Blanding and then wait, waiting for the storm!

All members of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron have felt this during the last two years.

It's only spring but the 290th is preparing.

One thing has changed which could make life a little bit easier for the 290th this hurricane season.

A new communication circuit was installed at the 290JCSS facilities here at MacDill AFB,

by the State and 290th personnel to help the Army Guard detachment, SOD-C, have access to the Florida Army National Guard network.

This T-1 circuit may solve some of the logistics, turmoil and dangerous driving conditions for the 290th personnel who have to convoy to Camp Blanding for every storm that hits Florida.

Instead of convoying to Camp Blanding, a much smaller cadre of 290th personnel (from around 14 Airmen to around six Airmen) will be recalled to their home station and bring the "Comms" up!

The 290th will still deploy smaller teams to the locations where the storm hits but that is always going to be the case.

The acceptance of the new circuit has been completed, now it's a matter of making sure it will support all of the data and voice needs of the Army National Guard when they deploy.

When implemented this new capability will not only provide assurance to the Emergency Operations Center that mission capable communications are online and ready for employment, but will also provide a substantial cost reduction in terms of SAD pay, deployment expenses and communications expendables.



From left to right: Senior Master Sgt. Paul Levesque, Superintendent of the Networks Branch at the 290th, discusses the new equipment upgrades with Master Sgt. Rick Dautsenberg, NCOIC of Data Communications.

Photo by Master Sgt. Troy H. Herr

# Operation Restore Hope: WRTC instructor ventures outside of the classroom to help others

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Rock  
WRTC Instructor

**A**s part of its multifaceted mission, the Weather Readiness Training Center (WRTC) at Camp Blanding, Florida, strives to provide its students with meteorological training that mirrors real-world military operations.

Recently, an instructor here did just that.

Technical Sgt Timothy Humpal recently deployed to Qasim AB, Pakistan for two months for Operation Restore Hope.

Located five miles south of Islamabad, Qasim AB was home to Operation RESTORE HOPE, a multinational and multi-service operation designed to bring relief in the form of supplies and medical attention to victims of last October's earthquake that rocked the region.



*Photos courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Timothy Humpal*

**A group of refugees prepare to board a CH47 in the Kagan valley to be taken to a camp in Muzaffarabad during Operation Restore Hope.**

Registering 7.6, the earthquake killed more than 87,000 people and left another 3.3 million homeless.

The earthquake rendered mountainous regions impassible due to large landslides that covered roads and paths.

Assets from the U.S. Army and Navy were needed to evacuate Pakistani casualties and to provide food and medical supplies to the affected regions.

During this time, Humpal's expertise was put to use.

Humpal provided weather support to the 1st Armored Division, Weisbaden, Germany, and to the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

He provided weather briefings and maintained mission watches for aircraft taking part in the rescue and relief of affected Pakistanis living in the mountainous areas.

However, Humpal could not escape his "instructor duties" while deployed as he taught Naval weather personnel stationed at the air base how to use hand-held weather instruments and GPS equipment.



**A child, who is part of a part of the group of refugees picked up in the Kagan Valley, looks up to greet the camera.**





A soldier from Bravo Company, 7-158th (Army Reserve) observes the landing spot where his CH47 will make land-fall. The helicopter was delivering supplies to a refugee camp during Operation Restore Hope.

Additionally, Humpal taught the same personnel how to construct tactical visibility charts as well as how to take tactical observations in forward operations.

Operating in mountainous terrain is not what the Navy is used to, but they adapted quickly and worked well with the other services to accomplish the task at hand.

Humpal commented that his recent support experience "was very positive, both humanitarially and occupationally.

All of the Pakistanis I came in contact with during my deployment were very appreciative of our (the United States) efforts," said Humpal.

He added "What really hit me was seeing the impact on the children."

With regard to his WRTC duties, Humpal said, "The deployment was enlightening in the fact that it served as a check and balance to the WRTC and FTE's curriculum and operations, respectively. I used many of the same tools during my deployment duties that we (the WRTC) teach.



The group of refugees from the Kagan valley settle inside a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

That alone added validity to what we are doing at the WRTC."

Ultimately, the question must be asked, how can a deployment like this impact the WRTC curriculum?

Humpal simply said, "Experience in joint operations with other services and nationalities."



# The best seen to date

By Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125FW Public Affairs

**M**onths before the 125th's ORI, the prevailing feeling throughout the Wing was that the goal of an Outstanding rating was a pipe dream of sorts.

No unit Air Force wide had received an outstanding in five years.

And, regardless of the sweat and commitment to mission, the best they could hope for was an Excellent rating.

Fortunately, the Wing had other plans. It was time to break the 'trend.'

Teamwork, commitment to the mission, and a desire to prove they're among the best in the Air Force broke the five year trend of the "no Outstanding" grade on an ORI.

"I knew that the Wing would come together and perform at a very high level," said Col. Scott K. Stacy, 125th Fighter Wing commander.

"My approach from the start was to plan and practice with the goal of an outstanding rating," said Stacy. "I must admit that a few months out I was skeptical that we could pull

it off, but I was very confident we would achieve at least a strong excellent and "raise the bar" on Phase 1 ORIs. The day prior to the inspection, as I saw the Wing pulling together, I actually believed we would pull off an outstanding."

The three-day ORI conducted March 10-12, evaluated the 125th's ability to transition from a peacetime to a wartime posture and included the generation, mobilization and deployment of aircraft, personnel and equipment.

For some, the exercise was one that opened their eyes to what the 125th capabilities are. Senior Amn. Alice M. Hohenkirk, a traffic management specialist who has been with the 125th for just 10 months, worked the Cargo Deployment Function during the exercise.

A transfer from the Oklahoma Air National Guard, Hohenkirk worked at the CDF which touted three perfect chalks during the ORI.

"Everyone here has such a positive attitude," said Hohenkirk. "You can really see that everyone takes pride in their job and I think the IG sees that too."

*Continued on page 18...*



Senior Amn. Alice M. Hohenkirk, 125th Fighter Wing Cargo Deployment Function - In-check team member, checks the packing in a Cadillac Bin, March 10, 2006, in support of the Phase 1 Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). The IG validated three perfect 'chalks' during the inspection.





*Photo by Tech Sgt. Richard Geer*



Above: Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers, 125th Fighter Wing Base Multimedia Manager (left) interviews Master Sgt. Harry James, 125th Fighter Wing Baggage Team member. Capturing the ORI activities on video and with still photography was part of the section's "inspection" criteria.

Left: Technical Sgt. Ben A. Sorrels, 125th Maintenance Squadron Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Craftsman, stands in front of the flightline tool room that was noted as one of the 'best seen to date.' Sorrels was instrumental in standardizing procedures for all of the tool rooms in the Maintenance Squadron.



*Inset photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill*

Staff Sgt. Kimberly Farley discusses the status of the automated tracking board in the Deployment Control Center March 11, 2006 during the 125th's ORI.



And, they did, too.

Several areas, including the CDF, were identified by the IG as 'the best seen to date.'

"It's almost unbelievable," said Senior Master Sgt. Doris L. Taylor, the chief for the CDF during the ORI.

"The attitude of everyone here has been so positive and confident. I think we could have moved the world if we needed to," said Taylor.

The 125th even scored a rare "best practice." The best practices program is a benchmark for the Air Force and notes superior methods or innovative practices that contribute to improved performance.

The 125SFS Digital Checklist Program was selected as a best practice and it involves the use of off-the-self interactive computer software programs by the security controllers. Controllers can accomplish and track multiple tasks from a single location with the system. Technical Sgt. Chad Phillips, 125th Security Forces Squadron, was credited with the best practice.

I think perhaps the more unique part of this inspection is the number of best seen to dates both in the report and through comments in the outbrief," said Stacy.

"When you have "best seen to date" comments for command and control, medical, security, the cargo deployment function, the personnel deployment function, force protection, and the "best maintained F-15s seen to date" (among others), it leaves little doubt the exceptional performance of the entire Wing."

**To the men and women of the 125th: I can not put into words how proud I am of the performance of each and every individual in the wing. In 21 years of service I have never seen a better example of camaraderie, teamwork, dedication, and professionalism. I have looked at every inspection report over the last several years, and NO ONE is even close. Thank you for everything you do, you are truly an amazing group of people and it is my honor to serve the country at your side!**

**-Col. Scott K. Stacy**

## 31 percent promotion rate proves the 159th Weather Flight continues to excel

*By Lt. Col. Stephen M. Longobardi  
159th Weather Flight Commander*

The retirement of Senior Master Sgt. Jon Carillon last October presented us with multiple promotion opportunities.

Master Sgt. Carlos Delanuez who met the December Senior Enlisted Board. He was excited and proud to pin on Senior Master Sgt. in late December.

That was one promotion.

Senior Amn. Tyson Everett passed his final five-level CDC's test and was promoted Staff Sgt.

That is two promotions.

Senior Amn. Lori Pearson and Senior Amn. Carlos Urrutia took the Airman Leadership test in January. Both passed the test and were consequently promoted to Staff Sgt.

That makes four promotions.

We realize that four enlisted promotions in one quarter may not be a lot for some units, however, the 159th Weather Flight only has 13 enlisted members so four promotions makes

more than 31% of the enlisted force sporting an additional stripe. Congrats to all.

The flight continues to deploy personnel. Technical Sgt. Jessica Huth volunteered to extend her deployment to Fort Campbell, Ky providing weather operations support to the 101st Airborne Division. She should return in May.

Technical Sgt. Mike Casey returned to Langley AFB, Va. in January for a 90-day tour to assist the weather unit that supports the 1st Fighter Wing. This is Casey's second deployment to Langley in less than a year.

Staff Sgt. Tyson Everett volunteered to support an AEF rotation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He will deploy soon.

The small but capable 159th Weather Flight is very busy training or engaged supporting our nation's real world weather needs.

We are proud to be a small but vital part of the FLANG!



# Det. 1 “excels” during trying times, earns high marks on AFE

By Major Mike Birkeland  
125FW, Det. 1 Commander

The men and women of 125th Fighter Wing, Det. 1 just completed a busy year that included a seven month deployment to NAS Key West due to scheduled runway repairs at Homestead ARB, four Hurricane evacuations and a NORAD Alert Force Evaluation (AFE). The Detachment personnel executed the mission in an exemplary manner.

January 2005 started off with a site survey to NAS Key West. The alert facility there had to be renovated from the ground up for the upcoming alert move. Command Post and ATC personnel were trained and used to augment U.S. Navy personnel to support the upcoming 24/7 alert operation. Then in May, the move from Homestead ARB to NAS Key West finally happened.

Truly significant is the fact that Det 1 never came off alert status during the move and provided continuing coverage to the Southeast US. The detachment met all Air Tasking Orders during the deployment.

We received the go ahead to move back to Homestead in December. The recovery back to Homestead was as smooth as the deployment and again we were never off alert status.

The team deployed to NAS Key West was impacted by no less than six hurricanes or tropical Storms. Fifty eight deployed personnel and the associated alert F-15s were evacuated three times for hurricanes. Aircraft were evacuated to Key West two times for storms that affected Jacksonville. The last storm of the season (Hurricane Wilma) tested the metal of Det 1.

Many of our personnel became involved in relief efforts at both Homestead and Key West. Our maintenance team that I redeployed to Key West the day after the storm became an integral part of the humanitarian effort while continuing to prepare for the return of alert operations. We stood up operations on a backup generator and with only one runway open. The maintenance evacuation plan during all of the storms resulted



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

**An F-15 Eagle assigned to the 125th Fighter Wing, Detachment 1, Homestead ARB, Florida takes off from Key West, Florida, May 15, 2005.**

in little or no damage to critical detachment equipment.

Timely evacuation of non essential personnel resulted in preserving the most valuable asset, our people and our families.

I then directed a team to return to Homestead to begin repair and prep for the recovery of alert forces and equipment.

Once back at Homestead ARB we began to prepare for an Alert Force Evaluation to be conducted by NORAD IG. Preparation was not easy as we still had damage to the alert facility and a lot of our equipment was very battered from the seven month deployment.

Again the Det personnel rose to the occasion. All personnel began working extra shifts to ensure our facilities and programs were up to standards.

The IG inspection netted an overall “Excellent” for the Detachment which was significant in the newer more stringent grading criteria. The IG noted that they had never seen a better attitude or teamwork among the others alert sites they had inspected. Our weapons team was rated “Outstanding.” The weapons inspector said our team was the best he had ever seen in the ANG or active duty. Our success is credit to great support from 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville and the men and women of Det 1.

# Former WRTC commandant takes command of 290th

By Master Sgt. Troy Herr  
290JCSS UPAR

MACDILL AFB, Fla.—Members of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS) welcomed their new commander during a change of command ceremony held here, April 8.

Lt. Col. Loretta J. Lombard, who leaves the position of Commandant of the Weather Readiness Training Center, Camp Blanding, Fla., assumed command from Col. David H. Barnhart during the time honored ceremony. Lombard will be the 6th commander of the 290th JCSS.

She will lead the unit which augments the active duty United States Air Force Joint Communications Support Element. The JCSE, headquartered here, provides personnel and communications systems to support United States national security objectives.

Lombard began her military career in 1980 as an active duty Air Force Electronic Computer Systems Technician for the 2035th Communications Squadron, Castle AFB, Ca. After cross-training into the weather field she transferred to the Air National Guard in 1986. Lombard worked for the 202nd Weather Flight, Otis Air National Guard Base, Ma., as the Station Chief until she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and a distinguished graduate of the Academy of Military Science in 1991.

Then a staff weather officer, she relocated and joined the 215th Engineering Installation Squadron, Everett, Wa. as the officer-in-charge of Information Management in 1994, before becoming a communications officer in charge of installations in 1995 while concurrently serving as the Detachment Commander.

In 1998, Lombard returned to the weather career field with the 116th Weather Flight at Camp Murray, Tacoma, Wash. She became the first full-time officer for the Weather Readiness Training Center in August 2002, and was redesignated as Commandant in July 2004.

Before passing the 290th's Guidon to Lombard, Col. Barnhart thanked the team for their dedication to mission success.

"Today I give this command over to a very highly qualified officer," said Barnhart. "The unit has never been in better shape and she is ready to lead and take you to the next level," said Barnhart.

Lombard thanked Col. Barnhart for his leadership of the 290th and addressed the members of the 290th.

"I believe the men and the women of the 290th are dedicated to the mission and are the best that I could ever have to work for me," said Lombard. "I choose to serve you with all my heart and my abilities and I hope you choose to support me and to continue to give your best to the Florida Air National Guard."

After the 290th's guidon was passed and speeches made, it was time to meet the people Lombard would lead. Brigadier Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, Commander of the Florida Air National Guard, who also presided over the ceremony, introduced the members of the 290th to Lombard.

"It is a fine group of people. This group of people at the 290th represent the absolute best in our nation. The 290th is

a lighthouse for the organization," said Balskus. "You have the complete confidence of the FLANG and JCSE leadership. All the best to you for a successful command."



Photo by Capt. Lusinda Recor

**Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, Commander, Florida Air National Guard, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Loretta J. Lombard, the new commander of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS), during a change of command ceremony held April 8.**



## Volunteers Needed at the JIA USO



Photos courtesy Lynne Pratt - JIA USO

The USO Welcome Center at Jacksonville International Airport (JIA) is a wonderful facility providing a safe haven to weary service members and their families. The USO exists solely upon the support of individuals, corporations, foundations and fund-raising efforts. They're a not for profit organization and receive donations through the United Way, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) #5051, and individuals dropping extra "change" in donation boxes. So, volunteers like Tech. Sgt. Michelle Williams, 125th Fighter Wing, man the facility to bring cheer to weary military travelers.

Volunteers receive free parking for their shift. Volunteers may bring their spouse, children, grandchildren, friends, etc. Dress is casual and service members are not required to wear a uniform. Additionally, volunteer mileage to and from the airport may qualify as a deduction for those who itemize income taxes.

There are two types of volunteer commitments - individual or group. Each commits to the same day and time every week. For ease of coordination, shifts are scheduled in four-hour blocks. The welcome center is manned solely by volunteers so if a shift does not arrive, the center re-

mains locked and unavailable to service members.

An individual commitment is one in which a specific person agrees to cover the same shift (day and time) for an indefinite period. If that person is unable to cover their shift, they contact the volunteer coordinator directly for a replacement.

A group commitment is one in which a specific command, organization or corporation agrees to cover the same shift (day and time) for an indefinite period. The person who covers the shift may or may not change from week to week. It's the group's responsibility to ensure coverage for that shift from amongst their volunteers. The group contacts the volunteer coordinator if they're unable to find

someone to cover their shift.

The ultimate goal of the Greater Jacksonville Area USO is to increase the hours the welcome center is open so it is available to service members 24 hours a day - 7 days a week.

For information on the welcome center, volunteering or donations, please contact Lynne Pratt, Volunteer Coordinator at 904-305-4467 or [lynne@usojax.com](mailto:lynne@usojax.com). For additional information on the Jacksonville Florida USO please visit [www.usojax.org](http://www.usojax.org).



**Tech. Sgt. Michelle Williams, 125th Fighter Wing, aids a weary sailor while volunteering at the JIA USO.**

# News from HQ

## *Bird Flu: future pandemic?*

By Col. Alan K. Rutherford

HQ FLANG, Director of Operations

There is a potentially very serious issue that could affect many, including those who serve the military: the "Bird Flu."

Here is what is happening now: wild birds and domestic poultry flocks have been affected with the H5N1 Avian Influenza ("Bird Flu"). The disease (caused by a virus) is currently limited almost exclusively to birds and is extremely deadly to them. The bird flu has spread to most of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Although the current strain of H5N1 is hard for humans to catch, it has happened in small numbers: 170 people have contacted H5N1 and more than 90 have died. H5N1 is very similar to the deadly 1918 "Spanish Flu" that killed millions world wide - in fact it caused more American military deaths than combat during World War I. Pandemics are a naturally occurring phenomena and have occurred many times - from the 14th century's Black Plague to the current AIDS pandemic. In fact, human influenza pandemics occur about every 30-40 years.

Viruses like H5N1 constantly mutate as all living things do, and different mutations cause not only differing levels of disease intensity ("virulence"), but also changing susceptibility for human infection.

What will happen - It is very likely that bird flu will soon come to our part of the world by migratory waterfowl entering North America through the Alaska flyways and traveling down the Mississippi River basin. We will shortly afterward start to see some U.S. domestic poultry flocks begin to get sick and many die from bird flu. What then? It may (hopefully) not ever mutate into a easily human-human transmitted variant. If it does, we do not know how virulent the final variant will be. Possible scenarios for a H5N1 pandemic are very hard to project because easily communicable influenza strains with high mortality rates have never been encountered in a modern society. The closest approximation was the 1918 flu pandemic, but our world has changed drastically since then. The current thinking is that a H5N1 human pandemic will last about a year and come in 2-3 waves with each wave lasting 6-8 weeks. In a bad scenario widespread disruptions of basic services and overwhelmed medical facilities may be expected.

Twenty to 30 percent of the U.S. population may become infected, and in the worst case 2.5

percent of those infected will die (hopefully and possibly less if the final mutation is a less virulent form than currently). Again, although the virus has four variants already, so far none can be easily spread from human to human.

What is being done? The U.S. Center for Disease Control and U.S. Department of Agriculture have deployed teams around the world to aggressively assist in detecting and containing bird flu outbreaks. Current bird flu countermeasures are focused on culling infected poultry flocks. This is to minimize the chances of bird-human H5N1 exposure, and hopefully lessen the opportunity the virus has to "see" humans and mutate to us as hosts. If the virus does mutate to an easy human-human form it remains to be seen just how virulent that strain will be. It may range from "not bad" to current mortality rates which are near 2.5 percent. Unlike the Influenza-A which sweeps around the globe annually, humans have not been exposed to H5N1 strain, so none of us have any natural immunity.

We have developed a prototype vaccine that looks promising, and we've started work on a second vaccine to target another of the H5N1 gene mutations. But we are 3-5 years away from having enough vaccine production capacity. This is due to the lead time required to build facilities, and then "turn on" the production lines. It also means that even after production capacity is on line we will ride out the first wave essentially unvaccinated (except for first responders). The U.S. is also planning on stockpiling the antiviral medicine "Tamiflu" in enough quantities for 25-30 percent of our population. Tamiflu is not a cure, but seems to be the best drug we currently have to lessen the symptoms of H5N1 in humans.

The federal government's response plan will be initiated immediately when a human-human mutation and disease spread is detected - this is necessary because experts believe that 30-days later it will be in the U.S.

There is no plan to close the borders - it is simply not practical in today's world because it will not stop the spread but will assuredly hurt our economy very badly.

The big question is "sounds bad - but how likely is this to happen? Let's look at the situation this way: in the Air National Guard we commonly use a decision making tool called "Operational Risk Management" to make smart safety decisions. Simply put, we first assess the probability of a bad event happening (from "not likely" to "highly



likely”) and then assess the consequences of the event (from “no big deal” to “catastrophic”). We use the results to pick the best course of action while operating in a potentially dangerous environment.

Today, many experts think that a H5N1 Avian Influenza human pandemic could possibly approach a “medium likelihood / extreme consequences” class event.

Finally, what are the steps you should take right now? Learn about the bird flu threat and decide on a course of action for you and your family.

The official U.S. government web site for information on pandemic flu and avian influenza

is [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov) or [www.avianflu.gov](http://www.avianflu.gov). Assuming that you will have to ride out the first wave unvaccinated by using basic public health measures (hand washing, face masks, staying away from large crowds, etc) I think a reasonable person would want to be able to have enough food, water, medicine, etc for 6-8 weeks.

The good news is that these are inexpensive and prudent measures that make sense anytime.

A final thought - it would not be wise to put this issue in the same category of Y2K or “Killer Bees from South America” - the CDC has briefed us that seven of the eight required steps for a H5N1 Avian Influenza pandemic have already occurred. Now would be a good time to prepare.

## Family Readiness advice

### Helping your child cope with stress and change

During times of change like when a parent is called to military duty, it is vital to make time to be with your child, to be open to his questions and to maintain a family routine. This can help to keep stress at home to a minimum.

The following tips can help:

- ***Reassure your child.***
- ***Find ways to be close and to show your love, like sharing hugs, cuddles, and reading aloud together.***
- ***Offer opportunities to talk.***
- ***Let your child know that it's important to ask questions if he has them***
- ***Remember that questions and concerns may come up at unexpected moments.***
- ***Present only what is specific and known about the situation.***
- ***Plan in advance what you are going to say if you have important news to share about upcoming changes.***
- ***Acknowledge your own feelings in an appropriate way. For example, don't deny that you're feeling uncertain or insecure.***
- ***Maintain routines at home.***
- ***Demonstrate parental strength and leadership.***
- ***Inform teachers and caregivers that changes are occurring, and ask for their help if you feel you need it.***
- ***Try not to let the worry or strain you may feel affect the kind of parent you are.***
- ***Be realistic about finances.***
- ***Plan special times together as a family.***

For more ideas, support, and inspiration, Military One Source offers Masters-level counselors 24/7 for all Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve families. You can reach them at 1-800-707-5784 or <http://www.airforceonesource.com>, name: airforce; password: ready.

Edited by Beth Eifert and adapted from an article written by Rebecca Dion, Regional director of Behavioral Health Residential Services at Northwestern Human Services

# Another Florida First

By Col. Billy Graham

325FW Associate Unit Commander

A Florida Air National Guardsman accomplished another milestone within the State's aviation heritage March 6, 2006.

Major Tom "House" Kafka became the first Florida Air National Guardsman to pilot the Air Force's newest air dominance fighter, the F-22A Raptor. Kafka is the first pilot of the 325th Fighter Wing's ANG Associate Unit, located at Tyndall AFB, selected to transition from the F-15C Eagle to the F-22A.

This transition has been in work at the Associate Unit for more than a year. The Associate Unit initiated an in-depth screening of qualified candidates following the official announcement by the Commander of Air Education and Training Command (AETC) to select a Florida Guardsman for F-22A transition.

The Associate Unit also coordinates hiring approval through Tyndall active duty leadership for any F-15C or F-22A pilot prior to the candidate being recommended to Florida senior leadership. In addition, the F-22A nomination process went beyond State Headquarters, with coordinated approvals by both the Director of the Air National Guard and the Commander of AETC.

Kafka is a 1990 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy.

He began his fighter career in the F-15C assigned to the 493rd Fighter Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom. Following his tour in Europe, Kafka transitioned to Tyndall AFB, Florida, as an F-15C instructor pilot in the 1st Fighter Squadron.

At almost the same time, the Tyndall ANG Associate Unit was being created.

"Early in my career with the active duty, I really did not give much consideration to joining the Air National Guard," said Kafka. "I watched as Col. Campbell [then Associate Unit commander] assembled the new Tyndall Air National Guard unit and mentioned the career option to my wife." Kafka is originally from Omaha, Nebraska, but his connection to the local area and the state of Florida comes through his wife, Jana, a Panama City native. In 2001, Kafka applied for and was accepted as an F-15C instructor pilot in the new and expanding Associate Unit. "it was a very natural transition for my family and me. To

continue serving as an F-15 instructor while allowing my wife and son to stay at 'home' was an awesome opportunity."

Kafka flew his last Eagle sortie Jan. 26, 2006 having accumulated more than 2000 hours in the F-15. Operating now with the 43rd Fighter Squadron, Tyndall's first F-22A squadron, he began the transition course Feb. 6, 2006. There is one month of intense academ-

ics, simulation and testing that leads up to the first F-22A sortie. Unlike many other fighter aircraft, there is not a two-seat or "training" version of the F-22A. Kafka was "solo" March 6 for his first flight in the Raptor which was accomplished along with an F-22A chase aircraft.

"Unbelievable," said Kafka as he stepped down from the aircraft's ladder.

As is the custom, he was greeted and congratulated at his aircraft by his chase instructor pilot, Capt. David Lopez. "I am so very blessed," Kafka said.

"To fly the Air Force's newest fighter and be the first to represent the Tyndall Associate Unit and the Florida Air National Guard in the F-22, is truly an honor."



Photo courtesy of the 325th Associate Unit

Left to right: Jana Kafka (wife), Maj. Tom Kafka, Jake Kafka (son) Sarah Johns (mother-in-law), Col. Billy Graham after Kafka's F-15 fini flights.



# Black History Month

The 125th Fighter Wing invited influential community members such as former Jacksonville Sheriff Nat Glover and First Coast news meteorologist Steve Smith (not pictured) to address the members of the Wing during Black History Month, February 2006.

Visits such as these enhance the understanding of current views shared by African Americans from the local community and allow military members to meet influential speakers.



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill*



**Above:** Senior Master Sgt. Tony Whitehead enjoys a moment of candor prior to the Black History Month "pot luck" luncheon at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville International Airport, Florida, Feb. 16, 2006.

**Left:** Lt. Col. Ron Corey, 125MSG deputy commander, helps Senior Amn. Tyra L. Williams, 125th Services Flight, serve ice before attending the Black History Month luncheon Feb. 16.

**Former Jacksonville Sheriff, "Nat" Glover thanks the 125th Fighter Wing after receiving a token of appreciation presented by 125th Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Scott K. Stacy during a luncheon in honor of Black History Month held Feb. 16.**





## Security Issues

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Cline  
125FW Antiterrorism Office

It's that time of year again. Summer is almost here and most of us will be vacationing and spending time with family and friends.

Here are some things you'll want to consider while traveling.

Do not discuss your travel plans in public areas where they may be overheard.

Discuss your travel plans with as few people as possible.

Selecting a hotel room on the third to fifth floor generally will keep you out of reach of criminal activity from the street and will also keep you within reach of most fire truck ladders.

If you suspect that you are being followed, drive to the nearest police station, fire station or public place. Note the license plate number, color and make of the vehicle, and any other information that may be useful in tracing the vehicle or its occupants.

Be very careful any time you use a telephone calling card. Fraudulent uses of these cards are on the rise.

Look for people observing your card or your fingers as you dial your code.

If you are lost, walk with confidence as if you are in control and know where you are going. Don't ignore your instincts. If you have a feeling that something is not right, it probably isn't.

Report suspected suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities immediately.

Visit [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) for more useful information on how to plan your vacations.

## Recognizing a stroke

125th Medical Group

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. For my Dad's part, he was carrying groceries into the house and inexplicably tripped.

He played it off as nothing. Unusual tripping and falling could be the first indicator of a stroke.

If, after noticing strange behavior or an unexpected fall, you follow the next three steps, you may prevent brain damage in the stroke victim.

Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster.

The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. Ask the individual to *smile*.
2. Ask him or her to *raise both arms*.
3. Ask the person to *speak in simple sentences* (coherently; i.e. . . . Is it sunny out today?)

Remember SRS (Smile, Raise, Speak). Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the

stroke and prevent brain damage.

## Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Col. Steve Thompson  
125th Chaplain

Have you ever noticed that sometimes things are exactly as they seem?

For instance, take the words "The" and "IRS."

Put them together during tax time and you get "THEIRS."

No doubt about that!

Similarly, take those three little letters "ORI." Individually they are fairly innocent and unassuming.

Put them together and you expect to discover hidden (e.g., "Where's Waldo" game) words like "run," "hide," "duck and cover," stop, drop and roll" ... you get the picture.

However, sometimes things are not what they seem.

This time around the letters "ORI" communicated "competence and confidence," "attitude and action," "pride and performance" and; most of all, "OUTSTANDING!"

It was simply amazing to watch everyone pull together, pull it together and pull it off! If I were in church I would shout, "Praise the Lord!"

Since the earth is the Lord's and all it contains (Psalm 24:1), I'll do it anyway, "Praise the Lord!"

*Continued next page...*



That exclamation of gratitude to God brings me to the point of my little sermon.

Make no mistake about it.

A turtle on a fence post is keenly aware that he did not get there by himself.

I believe that our OUTSTANDING is evidence that God was up to something very special in our lives and in our unit during those incredible three days.

I believe that the entire symphony of our inspection was directed by the hand of God.

I wrote a prayer to express my gratefulness to God for the events and eventual OUTSTANDING recognition during our ORI.

Baptists (like me) don't usually write out our prayers, and; so while it may not be as poetic as some of my more liturgical brethren, it does begin to help me pause and remember the One whose providential assistance was undeniable.

*"Our most gracious heavenly Father, we humbly come before You with thanksgiving in our hearts for Your watch-care during our ORI.*

*We are grateful that You helped us to accomplish that which was possible by our own hands and that You did for us that which was not.*

*Our people operate and work with inherently dangerous equipment and yet we experienced no injuries, even during our times of extreme physical and mental fatigue.*

*Our families did well in our absence and enabled us to give our attention to our formidable tasks. Many factors entered into the outstanding recognition that we received.*

*Our performance was the justified harvest of our persistent plans, preparation and practice.*

*Our Airmen from our most senior leaders to our newest*

*members sacrificially gave of themselves toward this effort.*

*Nonetheless, it is obvious to us that our best, alone, lacked what is necessary for this achievement.*

*And so, we acknowledge the presence of Your hand upon us during those critical three days of examination and once again express our heartfelt gratitude for Your blessings.*

*To God be the glory! Amen"*

God Bless You! Chaplain

## SEADS granted MILPDS access

By Lt. Col. David Thomas  
State Personnel Management Officer

As part of a long term effort by the FLANG to improve the efficiency and timeliness of personnel, education and training support to units, the Air National Guard Director of Personnel has granted the Southeast Air Defense Sector "MPF level" access to the Military Personnel Data System.

This capability is the first ever given to a Geographically Separated Unit in the Air National Guard and represents a pilot program that could have substantial impact on other GSUs and Military Personnel Flights throughout the Air National Guard.

MILPDS access will significantly improve customer service in both personnel and education and training.

We have worked for about four years to make this happen and could not be any more ecstatic to be the first Air Guard GSU to be given access to the system of record. In addition to improved customer service, MILPDS access for SEADS/ AFNORTH AOC will dramatically reduce the personnel workload on the 125MSF," said Col Debra Skelton, SEADS Director of Support, upon learning the news.

SEADS is expected to go live with MILPDS no later than May 2006 when certification of training is completed.

## Safety Matters

By Tech. Sgt. Paula Milton  
125FW Safety Office

According to officials at the Air Force Safety Center, the summer months are a period of increased non duty-related injuries due to increased activity and risk taking. An Air Force annual campaign called the Wingman Days (formerly known as 101 Days of Summer) and was created to increase personal awareness of summer related risks. The period begins on Memorial Day and ends on Labor Day, which equals 101 days. This summer, let's focus on safety by using common sense in all of our recreational activities. Tips on some important areas can be found online at:

BoatingSafety  
[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)  
Motorcycle Safety  
[www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org)  
Beach Safety  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

The 2nd Quarter 2006 Outstanding Safety Performance Award winner is 1Lt Juan Deya and he was awarded with a certificate and a \$25.00 gift card to Outback Steakhouse. Congratulations!

If you witnessed a safe practice or a 'safety attitude', nominate that individual by submitting an AF Form 1206, Nomination for Award, to the 125th FW Safety Office. The form can be found on the FLANGNET; 125FW; Wing; Wing Safety. You may send it by email to [WINGSAFETY@FLJACKANG.AF.MIL](mailto:WINGSAFETY@FLJACKANG.AF.MIL) or call 904-741-7015.

Safety...It's an attitude!

# In the Spotlight

## Senior Master Sgt. William G. Price

In January 2002 portions of the 114th Communications Squadron deployed to United States Central Command (CENTCOM) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Senior Master Sgt. William Price, one of the 114th NCOIC's, was assigned to Command, Control, Computers, Communication (C4) there. The office is responsible for supporting the Global Command and Control (GCCS) system. In January 2003, Price deployed to CENTCOM's Forward Headquarters as the NCOIC for GCCS during Operation Iraqi Freedom providing expert knowledge of the equipment there. In September 2003, when he demobilized, Price was offered a System Engineer contract position with CJTF, Task 47. Task 47's mission is to provide GCCS expertise. In this capacity, Price has deployed to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, Camp Victory, Iraq and the Coalition Air Operation Center (CAOC) Qatar.

Price's latest deployment was to support operations for Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa (CJTF HOA) at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti. CJTF HOA's mission differs from the majority of the operations in CENTCOM. CJTF



*Photo by Chaplain LCDR Lee Cook, USN*

**Pictured: Senior Master Sgt. Price of the 114th Combat Communications Squadron and children from the orphanage near Camp Lemonier, Djibouti**

HOA's mission is primarily humanitarian relief. The imaging and mapping capacity of GCCS is principally used to track water well drilling operations. The personnel there also support local efforts such as orphanages. Price and fellow coworkers had the opportunity to visit a park at Camp Lemonier with the children from an orphanage.

## Florida Air National Guard Retiree Association

*By Ernie Webster*

*FLANGRA President*

Fellow retiree's and friends:

I trust you all had a good winter and spring season and are looking forward to a wonderful summer. By the time you receive this, our April dinner meeting at the NAS Jacksonville "O" club will be history. I'm sure we had a good time and if you weren't there – you missed it!

There are two items I want to make you aware of. The first is the 7th Annual AFA Golf tournament to be held May 11 at the Orange Park Country Club. As you know, our golf tournament is a primary fund raiser for scholarships.

This year we plan to exceed \$6,000 providing scholarships to deserving graduating seniors that are going on to college. We provide scholarship support to schools in Duval and Nassau counties that sponsor Air Force ROTC units and also to our Teacher of the Year. If you are in business or know of a business that could be a community partner with us please let me know (904-724-8782). We are planning an exciting tournament and need your help, so pass the word, good prizes, a silent auction, good food and a lot of fun. Get your foursomes together; brochures should be out now.

Another exciting development that will be coming on board in August is a new JAX Federal Credit Union office in the complex where Biscayne Blvd. intersects Dunn Avenue. JAX FCU recently applied for and was approved for a community charter serving Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau, and Baker counties so any of your neighbors are welcome to join and participate in their excellent rates and service. They are also opening new branches at 103rd Street and I-295 this fall and in Atlantic Beach next spring. Come on down, they make banking easy.

Mark your calendars for the May 11 golf outing. I hope to see you there!



# It was all over...

*By Tech.Sgt. Denny King  
125th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron*

"ENDEX, I REPEAT, ENDEX." Those simple words and it was all over. The months of hectic preparation, checking and re-checking, tweaking this procedure, changing that one, tossing one out and creating four more... Mobility folders, dog tags, "let's look at the jets one more time" and then the final three days...

Ok, we made it through the generation, now we process. Ok, we processed, now the final, last day, the regeneration.

And it was all over.

It was time to go home. It looked as if the base was suddenly starting to sink, people were leaving so fast. I was late getting back to my shop, and by the time I got there it was a ghost town. There were signs of what had been going on over the last few days; Chem bags here and there, somebody's ear protectors, a few helmets, but overall there was a deafening silence.

Where was the laughter, the jokes, the colorful language, the boredom? Where were the briefings and the roll calls? What 'Infocon' were we in? What condition was the condition in? Who was on first? Who knew - who cared?

It was all over.

I went to my desk, put some stuff away, talked with a couple people still around, and then left. As I walked out the door and across the field to my car, I was struck again by the silence. The only sound was a slight breeze blowing from the flight line. This brought to mind two old movies. The first was Twelve o'clock high, at the end. Dean Jagger gets back on his bike and pedals down the English country lane that had once shook with the thunder of American bombers. Awesome movie! The other was Patton, again, at the end. Patton was walking out into a field. He was no longer a hard charging general - just an old man walking his dog.

As I got to my car, the last line of that movie came to me. "All glory is fleeting."

Yes indeed, it was all over.

## Changes abound for STARBASE

*By Greg Stritch  
STARBASE Florida Director*

Spring is here at last at STARBASE with many changes. This past winter we said farewell to Raquel Tucker and Nicole Evans.

Raquel joined her husband in a family move to up-state New York and Nicole left for a two year research project in the rain forests of Central America

Karen Strandberg came out of her brief retirement to administer the STARBASE Florida program.

She brings a broad skills-set and a bundle of energy to us as we prepare for summer. Darcy Anurca came home from the D.C. area to become our new Deputy Director. Her technical proficiency and vibrant person-

ality make everyday in the classroom an adventure.

In March Col Kozdras transitioned to a seat on the STARBASE Florida Board of Directors as I became the program director.

Colonel Kozdras has been on loan from State Headquarters where he assists Brig Gen Balskus with special projects. Colonel Kozdras has been the driving force in the growth and evolution of STARBASE this year, bringing on a new board, new staff and full alignment of the curriculum to state and national standards.

The great constant in this year of change has been Al Seablom, who has been on staff from near to our beginning, seamlessly administering our

budget and execution of our DoD funding. He keeps us all straight (and laughing).

This summer we're looking forward to the most exciting summer academies ever.

We'll be making gliders and rockets, flying new programs on the simulators and other way cool summer adventures!

The application has been emailed to base personnel and the summer academies should fill up quickly.

FANG member summer academies are scheduled for June 13-16 and July 18-21. Look for STARBASE at the IMAX premier and the NGOA conference in June.

# Promotions

## To Lieutenant Colonel

Stuart A. Bartosh, 125LRS  
Derick Cooper, 125LRS  
James S. Myers II, SEADS  
Edward D. Wachtfeilt, SEADS/Det 2

## To Major

Jennifer L. Armstrong, SEADS  
Kevin T. Atteberry, 125OSF  
John R. Dean, SEADS, Det 1  
Michael F. Janzen, 159FS  
Gary W. Mahanes, 125MDG

## To Captain

Deborah A. Congdon, 125MDG

## To Second Lieutenant

Joseph C. Balchunas, Jr., 290JCSS  
Dean J. Diana, 125MXS  
Gary J. Osland, 290JCSS  
Carl M. Wingard, 290JCSS

## To Chief Master Sgt.

Robin R. Mott, 125FW

## To Senior Master Sgt.

Daryl S. Evans, 125FW  
James W. Householder, 202RHS  
Larry E. Linton, 202RHS  
Ramon Perez-Rivera, 290JCSS

## To Master Sgt.

Catherine S. Chacon, 125FW  
Jeffrey J. Cogan, 125AMX  
Christopher C. Finch, 290JCSS  
Rhonda L. Hayes, SEADS  
Ricky Hornsby, SEADS  
Sue A. Kirkland, 125MSF  
Donald S. Knight, 125AMX  
Glenn J. McCain, 125MXS  
Michael S. Ramsey, 125AMX  
Daniel M. Robshaw, 202RHS  
John Trower, 125MOF

## To Technical Sgt.

Karen E. B. Acree, 125MDG  
Robert D. Ariatti, Det 1, 125FW

Aaron W. Bebernitz, 125CES  
Christopher A. Duemmel, 125MXS  
Lee A. Evans, 125AMX  
Ronald E. Harrelson, Jr., 125MXS  
Timothy Humpal, WRTC  
Annafe S. Johnson, 125MDG  
Danielle L. Jones, 125OSF  
Arianna L. Martus, 125CF  
James F. McGarry, 125CES  
Elvin Ramirez, 290JCSS  
Promise R. Simon, 159FS  
Benjamin Sorrells, 125MXS  
Rhonda Stonebraker, 125LRS  
Michael C. Vasko, 125AMX

## To Staff Sgt.

Nicole Adler, 44CST  
Jeremy R. Ayres, 125MXS  
Timothy W. Bedingfield, 125SFS  
Jaclyn A. Carver, 125CF  
Justin L. Elliott, 125MXS  
Tyson W. Everett, 159WF  
Frank G. Enright, 125SFS  
Brannon J. Ferguson, 125AMX  
Glenn T. Fritch, 125SFS  
William E. Graff, 125CES  
James P. Johnson, HQ FLANG  
Steven E. Lewis, 125CES  
Kizzy M. McCray, 125MDG  
Lori L. Pearson, 159WF  
Patrick K. Richards, 125MXS  
Cody J. Sansbury, 125MXS  
Mark J. Shepard, 125MXS  
Lacie L. Summy, 125MDG  
Carlos G. Urrutia, 159WF  
Robert J. Wert Jr., 125OSF  
Alan H. Wilkerson, 159WF

## To Senior Airman

Adam S. Borrello, 125SVF  
James S. Debow III, 125SFS  
Joshua S. Leighly, 125SFS  
Andrew P. Pelton, 125SFS

## To Airman First Class

Michael D. Sparks, 125MXS



# Welcomes

## Officers

Lt Col Ronald A. Lesch, 125OG  
Major David R. Banwart, 125OSF  
Major Stephen J. Cox, SEADS, Det 1  
Major David A. Peterson, SEADS  
Major Norman C. Summers, SEADS, Det 1  
Major Matthew S. VanWieren, 159FS  
Capt John A. Arledge, 125MDG  
Capt Richard L. Basting, 290JCSS  
Capt Derrick S. Dailey, 125FW  
Capt Matthew L. Giles, 114CCS  
Capt Rafael Palacios, 202RHS  
2Lt Andrew J. Scott, SEADS

## Enlisted

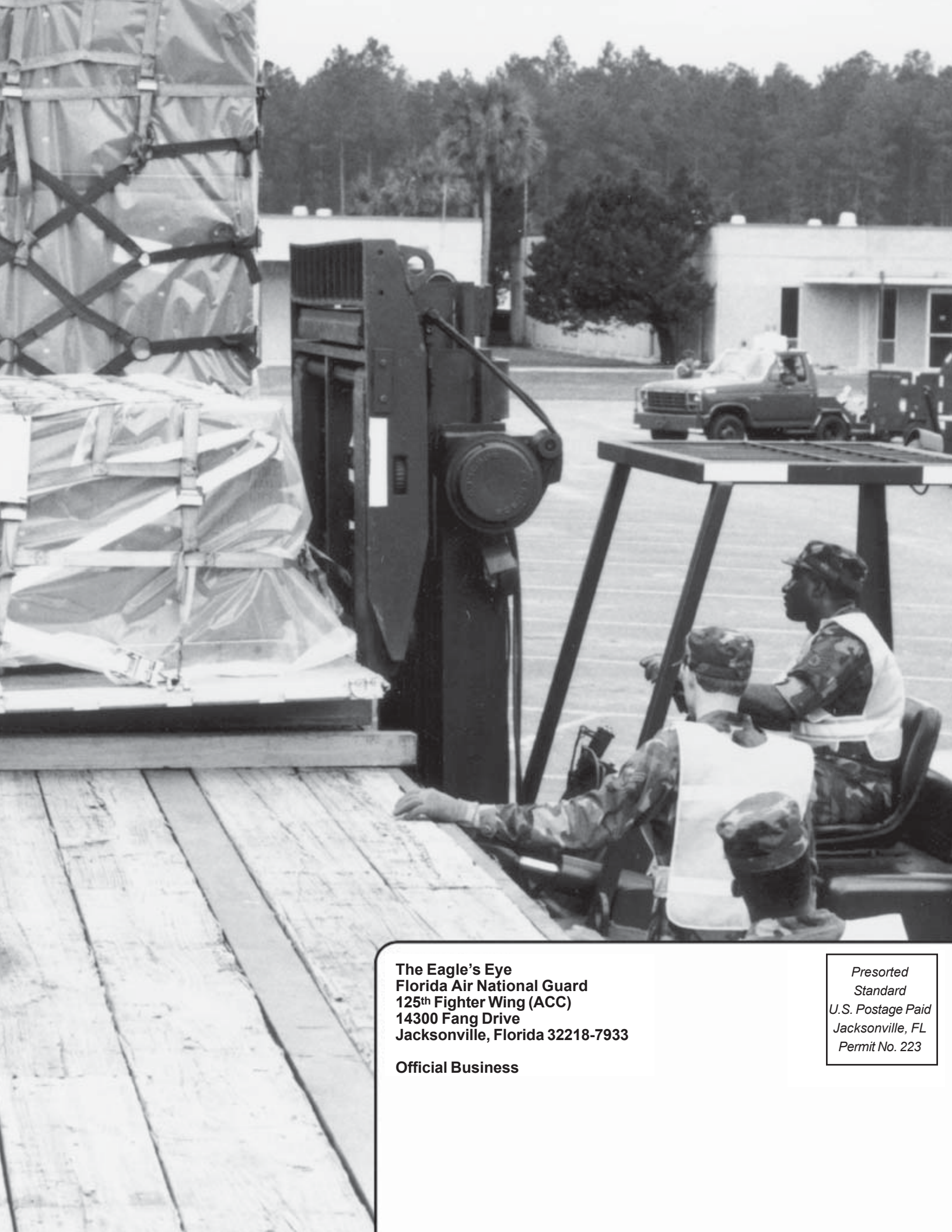
MSgt Douglas S. Henry, 114CCS  
**MSgt Robert Jasinski, SEADS**  
MSgt Edwin Quinones, 125MXS  
TSgt Lee N. P. Uhl, 125FW  
SSgt Frank P. Freihofer, 125AMX  
SSgt Linda M. Gardner, 114CCS  
SSgt Kenneth J. Gosson, 290JCSS  
SSgt Anthony J. Hagan, 125MXS  
SSgt John G. Palmer, WRTC  
SSgt Richard Ramlogan, 290JCSS  
SSgt Michael A. Sitjar, 125MXS  
SSgt Shane D. Smith, SEADS  
SrA William J. Brewer, 125CES  
SrA James D. Edington, 125MXS  
SrA Kent M. McGaha, 125CES  
SrA Ashley D. Pippin, SEADS  
SrA Penelope K. Pippin, 114CCS  
SrA Glendalis Riveramercado, SEADS  
SrA Luke A. Smith, 114CCS  
A1C John F. Armstrong, 125MXS  
A1C Thomas G. Baker, 290JCSS  
A1C Errol J. Christos, 125SFS  
A1C Ninet Fernandez, 114CCS  
A1C Jaclyn D. Jacola, 125FW  
A1C Breanne J. Julian, 125AMX  
A1C Keona D. Newsom, 202RHS  
A1C Matthew E. Osborn, 202RHS  
A1C Christopher C. Scroggie, 125MXS  
A1C Daniel L. Shirk, 290JCSS  
A1C Stephen R. Sorbie, 290JCSS  
AMN Alyssa M. Bailey, 125MSF

# Farewells

CMSgt Dennis H. Mineweaser, 202RHS  
SMSgt Rodney L. Anderson, 125MSF  
SMSgt Leroy C. Pritchard, 125MXS  
MSgt Randall R. Crews, 125MXS  
MSgt Paul A. Daniel, SEADS, Det 2  
MSgt James R. Mercer, 125AMX  
MSgt Judy A. Pashley, 202RHS  
MSgt Jane M. Rogers, 125MSF  
MSgt Daniel L. Sebring, 125FW  
MSgt Lorenzo B. Sheppard, 125MOF  
MSgt Michael J. Sirbaugh, SEADS  
MSgt David F. Straining, Jr., 202RHS  
MSgt Paul E. Watchorn, 125MXS  
TSgt Lawrence W. Breiner, Jr., 125SFS  
TSgt Gregory A. Laney, SEADS  
TSgt Susan M. Ottlein, 125MSF  
TSgt Ronald E. Quinn, 125CES  
SSgt Stanley J. Luszczynski, 125CES  
SSgt Marlena K. Schmitt, 125FW

## CCAF Graduates: April 2006

Dorothy J. Aston, 290JCSS  
John G. Crosby, 290JCSS  
Benjamin J. Harmon, 114CCS  
Robert Lee, 125AMX  
Jerome Martin, 290JCSS  
Vanessa, Mason, 290JCSS  
Ellen Reeder, 202RHS  
William Rogers, SEADS  
James Salgado, 290JCSS  
LeAnn Steiner, 125CF  
Tracy Vickery, 125SVF  
Brad Weekley, SEADS, Det 2



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*Volume 6, Issue 1*

# MAIN EVENT



***Inspector General validates  
FLANG's mission readiness***